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**Threat Outlook: Terrorism Against Non-Official Americans Abroad**

As a result of the most recent Beirut and other bombings, substantial improvements in the physical security of official US Government installations abroad are and will be made. An unfortunate corollary to this official hardening of Government buildings will be the increased risks to installations used by American businesses and private citizens abroad. As terrorists find the official targets more difficult to attack, they will turn to softer American targets in their operational areas.

Predictably, they will find nonofficial Americans much easier to intimidate. American businesses often are willing to pay ransoms and otherwise comply with terrorists' demands in return for the release of their employees. Such terrorist "successes" against American-connected firms will encourage more attacks.

Recently several "civilian" security executives working for or in private corporations have used their participation in US Government-sponsored conferences on international terrorism to voice their apprehensions and to request closer working and warning relationships with official American representatives abroad.

As the Intelligence Community continues efforts to provide warning to officials, we need to do all possible to ensure that we do not neglect the safety of nonofficial Americans. Executives in the central security offices of several multinationals are anxious to work more closely with the US Government and heed whatever warnings we can give them in the terrorism context.

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